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NRO 25X1A

Copy 12 of 13

24 JUN 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Loan of CIA Aircraft to Department of Defense

The following message addressed to Commander, [REDACTED] has been passed to Secretary of Defense, DNRO, JCS, and CINCSAC:

"1. Agreement has been reached between the Secretary of Defense and Director of Central Intelligence for the temporary loan to SAC of three U-2F aircraft for the purpose of conducting [REDACTED] missions. This agreement further provides for the following:

a. DOD is to guarantee CIA replacement of any aircraft lost or damaged beyond repair during the loan period, to include costs of conversion to U-2F configuration with J-75 engines.

b. Immediate return of subject loaned aircraft and sub-systems upon request by the DCI to meet his priority collection requirements.

2. You are to ferry numbered aircraft 350, 356, and 359 to 4080th for turnover to the Commander, 4080th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing, SAC at the earliest time feasible.

3. You are authorized to place on TDY to the 4080th SRW, SAC, sufficient personnel and logistics support as agreed upon between you and Commander, 4080th SRW. Provide for initial 30 day deployment of your required assets.

NRO DECLASSIFICATION/RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS ON FILE

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Control System

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4. You are to turn over also on loan one each B camera configuration. ECM pods will be removed. Systems III, VI, IXA, and XII will be installed. Painting of subject aircraft to USAF standards will be as agreed upon between you and Commander 4080th SRW. Special communications capability is not required.

5. On subject aircraft maintenance, it is the view of this headquarters that contractor maintenance crews should accompany aircraft however, this is a decision for SAC to make after consultation with you. Spare J-75 engines will be retained with you on call as required by Commander, 4080th SRW.

6. Aircraft to move personnel and equipment from Edwards Air Force Base to 4080th will be provided by SAC per agreement Commander, 4080th and Commander, [REDACTED]

7. ATTENTION CINCSAC:

a. Believe this operation offers exceptional opportunity to further evaluate improved System XII and tactics, which have recently showed considerable promise in other operational areas. Request your comments.

b. Loan of subject aircraft reduces our inventory of ZI available U-2C or U-2F aircraft to one, just coming out of overhaul. If the period of this loan extends to 30 days or longer there will be a problem in maintaining pilot proficiency in the U-2. In such event, we might find it necessary to request proficiency flights for our pilots in SAC U-2A aircraft."

(Signed) Jack C. Ledford

JACK C. LEDFORD
Colonel USAF
Assistant Director
(Special Activities)

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AD/OSA/JC Ledford:ph (24 Jun 63)

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